

Message Text

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43/46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 (ADP) W

----- 083744

R 161130 Z APR 73 ZEL
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 926
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PAIRS
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - CLASSIFICATION AND TAGS INFORMATION

EO. 11652: DECON DEC 31, 1973

TAGS: PINT, PFOE, CB

SUBJECT: SIHANOUK' S TRIP TO CAMBODIA

1. SUMMARY. SIHANOUK' S VISIT TO CAMBODIA, THE SCOPE OF WHICH IF IT DID TAKE PLACE AT ALL, IS STILL QUESTIONABLE, SEEMED PRIMARILY AIMED AT INTERNATIONAL OPINION RATHER THAN HE KHMER THEMSELVES. ANNOUNCING THE TRIP AFTER HIS RETURN TO HANOI HAS CUASED THE EFFECT TO BE LARGELY LOST IN AREAS UNDER GKR CONTROL. HIS SPEECHES IN CAMBODIA CONTAIN LITTLE OF NOTE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 6 SIHNAOUK RETURNED TO HANOI AFTER WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A MONTH- LONG INSPECTION OF CAMBODIA' S LIBERATED ZONE. MONIQUE AND REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE INTERIOR IENG SARY ACCOMPANIED HIM. THE PRINCE CLAIMED TO HAVE TRAVELED BY WHITE MERCEDES DISGUISED WITH LEAVES AND TO HAVE VISITED STUNG TRENG, PREAH VIHEAR AND SIEMREAP
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PROVINCES. THE TOUR ALLEGEDLY CLIMAXED WITH A MARCH 23 10,000 PERSON RALLY AT PHNOM PENH IN THE ANGKOR AREA TO CELEBRATE THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF FUNK AND THE CPNLAF (THE ARMY). ALTHOUGH AN EVENT OF THIS IMPORTANCE SHOULD RAPIDLY PASS THROUGHT THE LINES, NO REPORT OF SUCH RALLY HAS YET FILTERED OUT TO GKR OR EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

3. THE VISIT SERVED A NUMBER OF PURPOSES, PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS TO INCREASE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF GRUNK POSSIBLY IN PREPARATION FOR THE NON- ALIGNED SUMIT AND, LATER, FOR A FIGHT AT THE 1973 UNGA. IN THIS CONNECTION, GHOU- EN- LAI CLAIMED, DURING A PEKING BANQUET TO WELCOME THE PRINCE BACK, THAT THE TRIP " WILL FURTHER ENHANCE THE HIGH INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE OF THE FUNK AND THE GRUNK." IN AN APRIL 13 PRESS CONFERENCE SIHANOUK SAID THAT SUPPORTING CAMBODIA IS SUPPORTING THE LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE THRID WORLD; HE ALSO PRAISED THOSE AFRICAN STATES WHICH HAVE RECENTLY RECOGNIZED GRUNK. SIHANOUK ANNOUNCED APRIL 14 THAT HE WILL

VISIT OFFICIALLY SENEGAL, MALI, THE CONGO, GUINEA AND ZAMBIA BEGINNING IN NAY. PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY WILL BE WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF A 16 MM MOVIE TAKEN DURING THE TRIP. THIS LATEST EFFORT OF THE DIRECTOR- PRINCE IS SLATED FOR AN ANERICAN TV NETWORK, HE SAID.

4. BOTH SIHANOUK AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT THE TRIP UNDERMINES US- GKR PROPAGANDA BY EXPLODING THE MYTH THAT THE INSURGENTS REALLY DO NOT WANT SIHANOUK BACK. FURTHERMORE, THEY ASSERT THAT SIHANOUK' S PHOTOS WILL PROVE THE KHIEU SAMPHAN, HOU YOUN AND HU NIM ARE ALIVE AND GIVE THE LIE TO CHARGES THAT SIHANOUK HAD THEM KILLED IN 1967. REGARDING THE FORMER, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT ON JANUARY 27, 1973, SIHANOUK SAID THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE A TRIP TO CAMBODIA AND IF THE INTERNAL RESISTANCE SOUGHT TO IMPEDE HIS RETURN HE WOULD RESIGN AND SEEK FRENCH HOSPITALITY. FOUR DAYS LATER HE TOLD AFP HE HAD THE AGREEMENT OF THE RESISTANCE FOR A SHORT VISIT.

5. SIHANOUK CLAIMED THAT SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS PREVENTED PUBLICIZING THE TOUR WHILE IT WAS IN PROGRESS. ACCORDINGLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE EFFECT IN AREAS UNDER GKR CONTROL HAS BEEN DIMMED BY ANTI- CLIMAX AND THE IMPACT IN THE INSURGENT ZONE SHOULD BE SOMEWHAT MUTED AS WELL. IF SIHANOUK' S PHOTOS CONVINCINGLY SHOW THAT THE GHOST MINISTERS, EXPECIALLY KHIEU SAMPHAN,

ARE ALIVE, HOWEVER, THE INSURGENTS WILL REAP SIGNIFICANT PROPAGANDA BENEFITS AMONG PHNOM PENH STUDENTS AND INTELLECTUALS, MANY OF WHOM ADMIRE KHIEU SAMPHAN FOR HIS HONESTY, INTELLIGENCE, RECORDED DURING THE VISIT HAVE ATTRACTED A WIDE AUDIENCE IN PHNOM PENH BUT LITTLE COMMENT. THE IRINCE SAID LITTLE OF NOTE, MERELY REITERATING A HARD LINE OF NO CEASE- FIRE AND NO COMPROMISE WITH LON NOL AND GIVING A STANDARD PRESENTATION OF THE PARLOUS STATE OF LON NOL' S REGIME.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. IN ORDER TO CHECK THE PHOTOS WITH KHMER CONTACTS THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO SEND THEM TO PHNOM PENH AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVIALABLE.
SWANK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CINCPAC
EA
HONG KONG
PAIRS
SAIGON

SECSTATE WASHDC
VIENTIANE

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